(vi) Creation of awareness about the importance of conservation of birds.

Action plan to check pollution in Delhi

3773. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any specific action plan to check the day-by-day increasing pollution in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof; and

(c) the funds spent by Government to check the pollution in Delhi during the last four years alongwith the year-wise and item-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The Government has prepared a specific Action Plan to control pollution in Delhi in a time bound programme entailing a coordinated inter departmental strategy. This Plan includes strategies to control air, vehicular, water, industrial and noise pollution.

(c) To improve the quality of environment in Delhi, Government has released Rs. 166.21 crores under the Yamuna Action Plan and Rs. 23.00 crores to install Common Effluent Treatment Plants.

Failure of Bt. Cotton in Andhra Pradesh

3774. SHRI N. R. DASARI :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the opinion being expressed by the environmental activist group Green peace as well as the Andhra Pradesh Minister for agriculture that the Bt. Cotton was a failure;

(b) if so, the details;

(c) whether any official study has been conducted into the success of Bt. Cotton where it has been experimented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Green peace and some of the other environment activists have drawn Governments attention towards alleged low yield of Bt. Cotton in the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The three Bt. Cotton hybrids have been introduced into the environment only in 2002-2003 and are presently under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. The Bt. gene has been introduced specifically to control bollworm infestation. For the Kharif 2002 season, the Committees constituted by the Ministry visited some of the Bt. cotton fields. The Committees observation on the field situation on the basis of discussion with the farmers indicated that the performance of Bt. Cotton is satisfactory in terms of bollworm infestation and reduction in use of pesticide sprays.

Minimizing Pollution

3775. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution due to increase in vehicular traffic in the metropolitan cities have increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the complete details thereof, metro-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to take adequate steps to minimize the pollution level on the basis of modern technology available in USA and other European countries, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The ambient air quality monitoring data under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme has indicated a decrease in Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai during the year 2002 as compared to 2001. Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) levels were within National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards. The Nitrogen dioxide (NOx) levels were also within the NAAQ Standards in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.